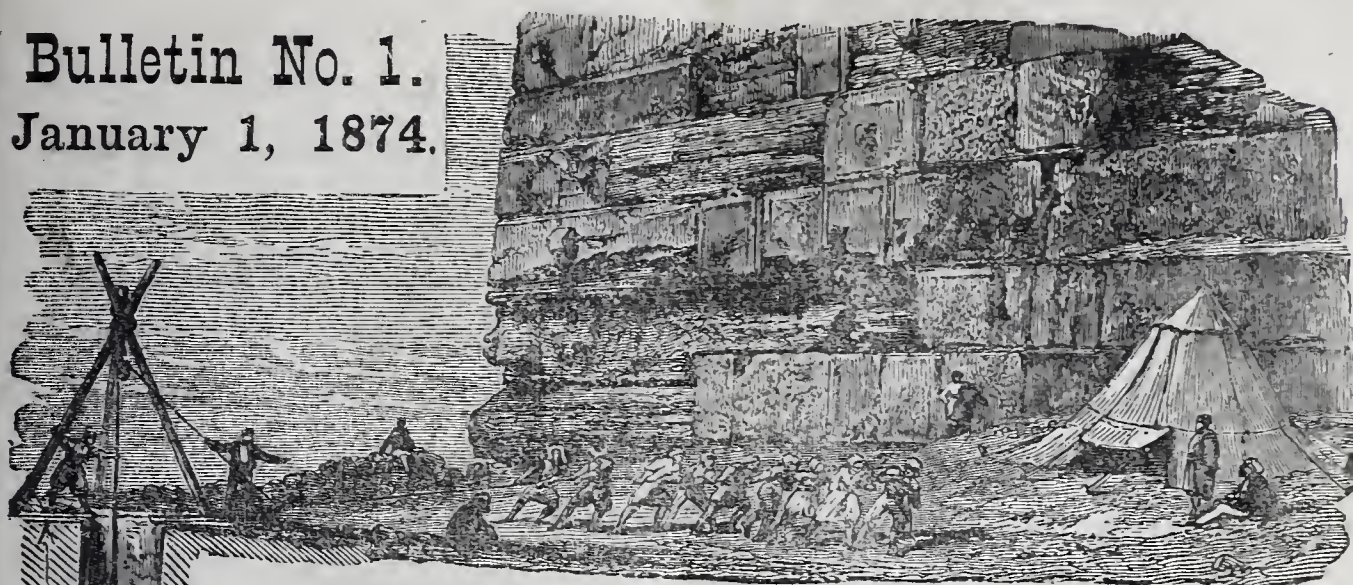


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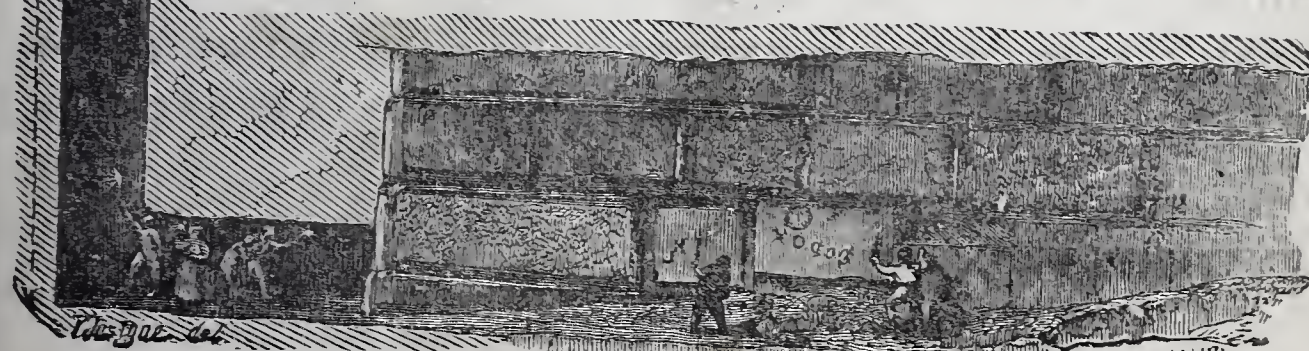
Bulletin No. 1.
January 1, 1874.



This Society has undertaken a scientific Exploration and Survey of the once famous, but now scarcely known countries of Moab, Gilead and Bashan, in which occurred some of the most important events recorded in the Old Testament History and in the Life of Jesus of Nazareth.

Competent Engineers and Scholars are making thorough examinations and records of the Topography, Geology, Meteorology, Botany, Zoology and Archæology of the entire region east of the Dead Sea and the Jordan, and north of its sources, embracing an area of about 15,000 square miles.

The English "Exploration Fund," is doing a similar work in Western Palestine, from the Jordan to the Mediterranean, so that in due time the two Societies will be prepared, jointly, to issue a perfectly reliable Map of the Holy Land, with nearly exhaustive reports upon its geography, climate, soil, productions and antiquities.



Excavations, by the English Society, beneath Mount Moriah.

Shaft 3 x 4 ft. 80 feet deep.

WORK ACCOMPLISHED.

Our Expedition, under command of Lieutenant Edgar Z. Steever, Jr., of the United States Army, has reported encouraging progress during the past year. More than six hundred square miles, in the neighborhood of Mount Nebo, have been surveyed. Sketches of ruins, copies of inscriptions, collections in Natural History and numerous interesting discoveries have been made. Prof. Paine believes that Nebo and Pisgah have been identified and their relative positions determined, beyond a reasonable doubt.

Probable Cost of Completing the Work.

It will require \$30,000 annually, for the next five years. As this is a national and not a sectarian enterprise, of which every American may feel justly proud, all persons in every part of the land, old and young, Christians and Israelites, are invited to participate in the honor and expense of its achievement. Donations and Annual Subscriptions are earnestly solicited, for which receipts will be promptly returned; and acknowledgment made in succeeding Reports.

Publications.

Occasional "Statements," illustrated with lithographs and diagrams, show the progress of the Exploring Party, and contain appropriate memoirs and papers by writers well known at home and abroad. A specimen article from the last number is appended. Copies of all documents issued are distributed gratuitously to patrons of the Society. Subscribers for a single year will receive the publications of that year; and those who continue their subscriptions till the work is completed, will receive also a copy of the final map.

Price of "Statements" to non-contributors, 50 cents per copy.

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TEN DOLLARS AS A UNIFORM

Sunday School and Bible Class Annual Subscription.

The ten dollars can be paid at any time during the year. The School thus secures the Society's Publications and the valuable final map, besides rendering acceptable and essential assistance in these Explorations of Bible Lands.

Our list of such subscriptions is rapidly increasing. The name of every School or Class desiring it will be enrolled immediately and a certificate to that effect returned.

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26 Exchange Place, Room 14, New York,

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"THE RECOVERY OF JERUSALEM" an interesting volume published by the "English Exploration Fund," and re-published in this country by the Messrs. Appleton, is for sale, price, \$3.50.

HUSN SULAYMAN.

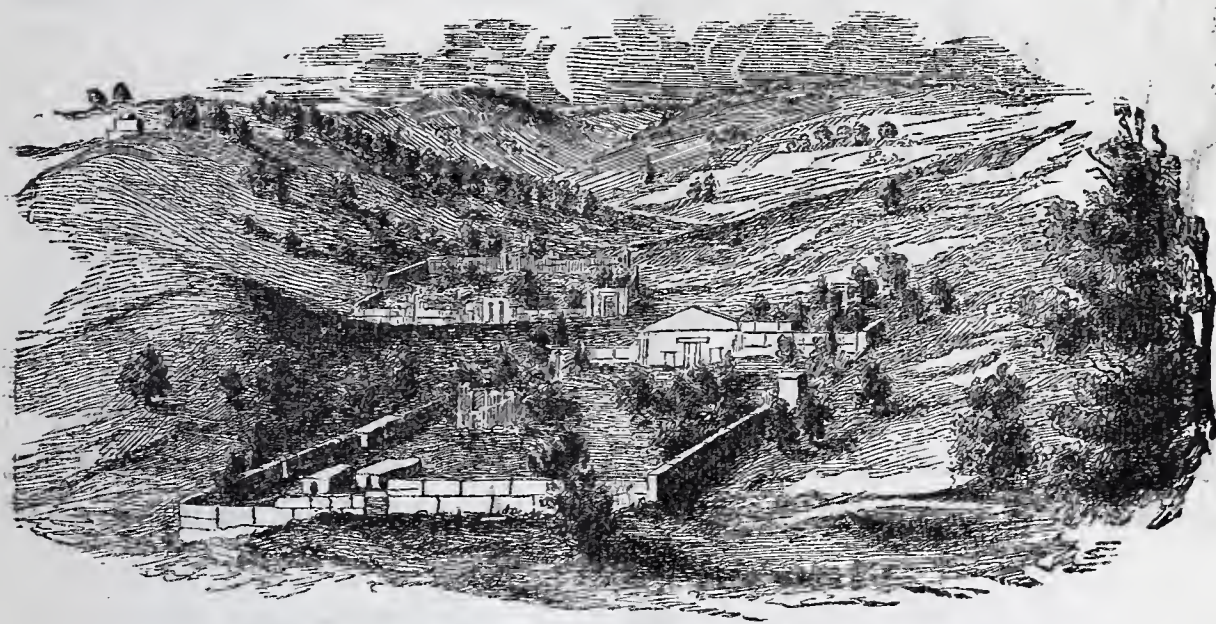
BY THE REV. SAMUEL JESSUP, AMERICAN MISSIONARY IN SYRIA.

Husn Sulayman is the name of one of the most interesting and magnificent ruins in Syria. It lies in a secluded spot, in the heart of the Nusaireeyeh Mountains. There is much of mystery surrounding both its name and its location. Almost nothing is known of its origin. The people say that giant devils (El Marid) built it, and that they brought the immense stones for its walls from a cliff of rocks over an absolutely impracticable route for some four miles. They insist that no sons of Adam ever placed the huge blocks of stone where they now lie.

The name, Husn Sulayman, means Stronghold of Solomon, but its position and structure are such as to indicate that it was not intended for a fortress, though Solomon may have had as much to do with this as with Baalbec. However, the Nusaireeyeh have, among their mountains, castles called "Children of Israel," "Zion," and villages called Hebron and Zion, etc. They most probably gave the present name to the ruin. You would naturally expect a fortress to be on some commanding elevation; but this is in a small basin, surrounded on every side by high ridges, with a narrow opening to the southwest, which is so deflected that you cannot see down its course for more than one or two hundred rods.

In order to reach this place, you will start from the city of Tripoli, on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea (fifty miles north of Beirut) and ride northeast for two days on horseback. The first three hours take you along the coast to Nahr el Barid (Orthosia); then, along the great plain of Akkar, through its rich fields of wheat and Indian corn, and passing, here and there, huge conical mounds, and over a river of the same name. In six hours from

Tripoli, you cross Nahr el Kebir (Eleutherus), and, at intervals of about an hour each, four other rivers—small streams—called Medhaly, Erzoony, Aroos and Abrush. You then ascend the gradually sloping hills, ornamented by stately sacred oaks, until you reach Burj Safita, eleven hours from Tripoli, where you will notice a very interesting Crusaders' tower (Castle Blanc) in one of the most commanding position in Syria. Without stopping here, we will ride along by Nusaireeyeh groves, and high places and sacred tombs, for four hours and a half, ascending all the way until we suddenly come to the top of a ridge that runs around right and left, completing almost an entire circle and, looking down to the centre of the little basin, we see the beautiful ruin at our feet. There it has been sleeping in its secluded nest for many ages, almost never



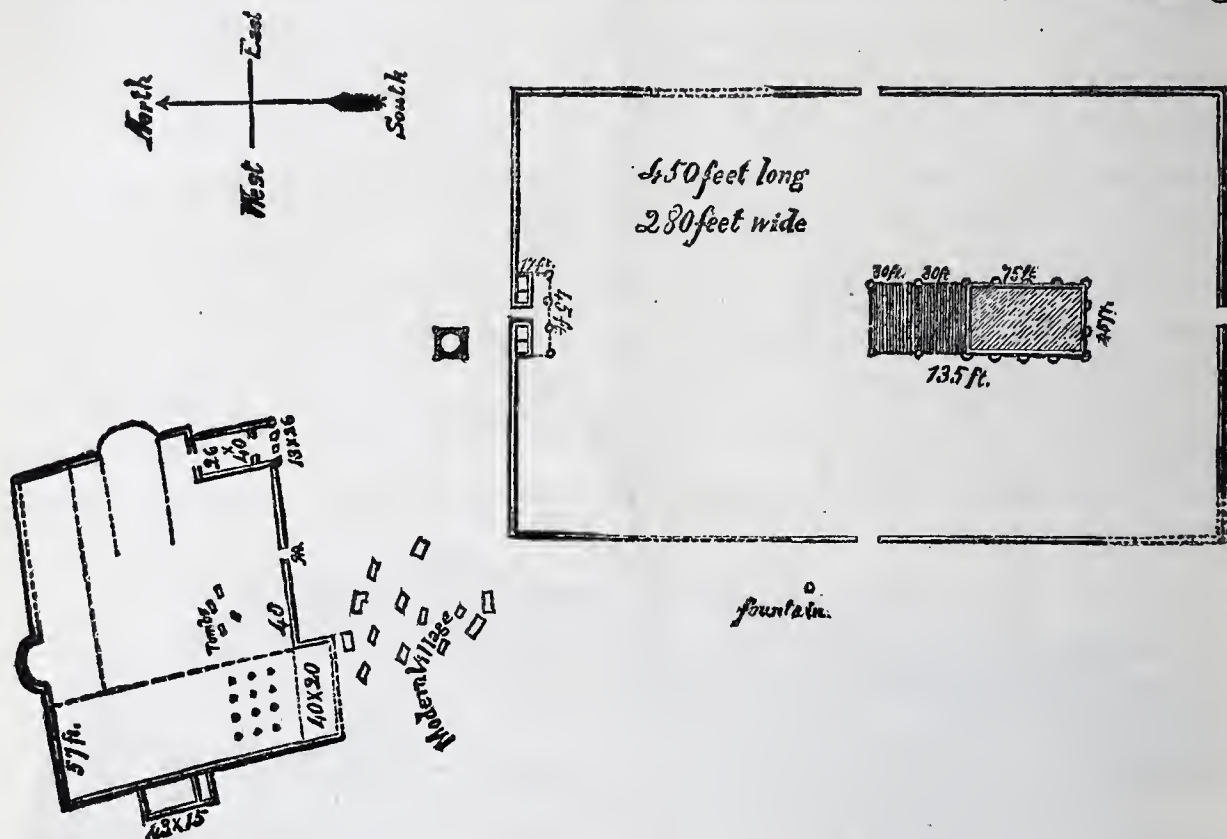
HUSN SULAYMAN, FROM THE SOUTHEAST (NO. 1).

disturbed by any intruder. You will step softly as you descend, lest you frighten away the spirits of the place, or lest the very ruin should try to conceal itself under its luxuriant ivy and abundant oak. But this feeling changes, as you come nearer and see its massive structure, its wonderful blocks of stone—the most of which has resisted ages of earthquakes, and which still stands where it was originally placed. See Sketch No. 1.

Let us first take a general survey of what is before us. (See ground plan—No. 2.) There are two principal ruins or enclosures. The southern is the larger and more important. This is a grand rectangle, 450 feet long by 280 feet wide, and from 10 to 40 feet high, according as the rubbish has gathered around it. There

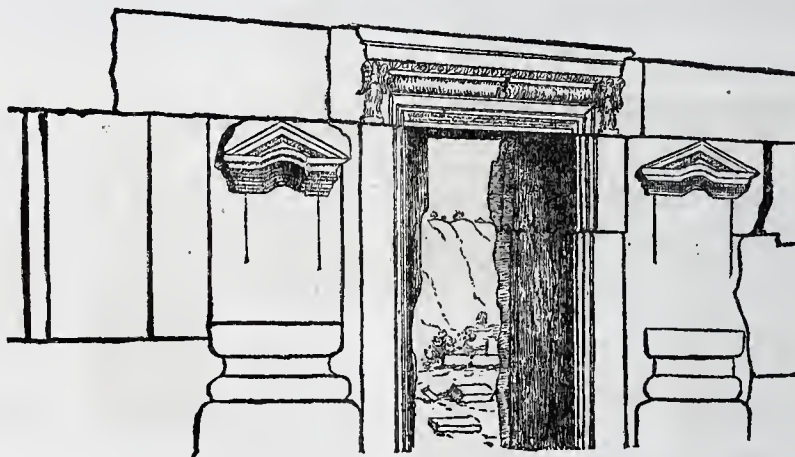
are four great portals, similarly situated in the centre of each of the four side walls. They are 10 feet wide, 20 feet high and 8 feet thick.

The lintel over the *East Gate* (see No. 3) is one stone, 21 feet long,



GROUND PLAN (NO. 2).

10 feet wide and 5 feet high. It is carved in a very chaste style, with a cornice of dice and flowers. In the centre of the cornice is a king's head. On each end is a winged image in high relief, draped



EAST GATE (NO. 3).

from the waist down, and supporting the top of the cornice on its shoulders, the arms being uplifted. At the bottom of the cornice is the following Greek inscription, in two lines, the letters being about four inches high :

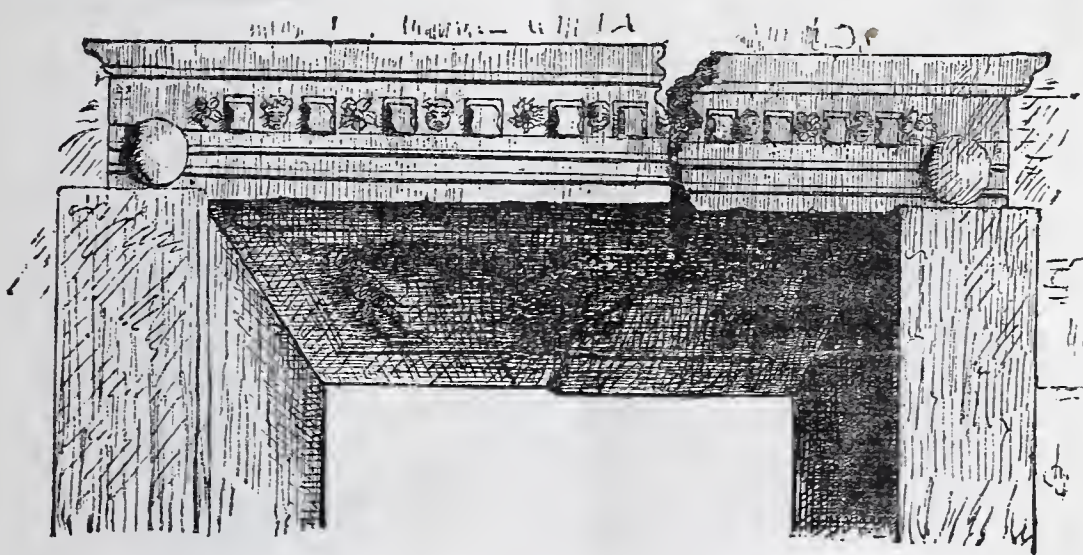
ΘΕΩΒΑΙΤΟΧΕΙΧΕΙΟΙΚΑΤΟΧΟΙΕΚΤΩΝΙΑΔΙΩΝΕΝΤΩ
 ΒΗΒΕΤΕΙΕΠΟΝ-ΙCΑΝ
 (X?) (?) (MH?)

On either side of the doorway is a false window, sunken slightly, with heavy, projecting sills and elegant caps and cornices of the



CEILING OF EAST PORTAL (NO. 4).

flower and dice pattern. (See No. 3.) The soffit of ceiling of this doorway is carved like that in the Temple of the Sun at Baalbec. It has the eagle in the centre, with a caduceus in its talons and a retreating figure on either side. (See No. 4). An eagle similar to

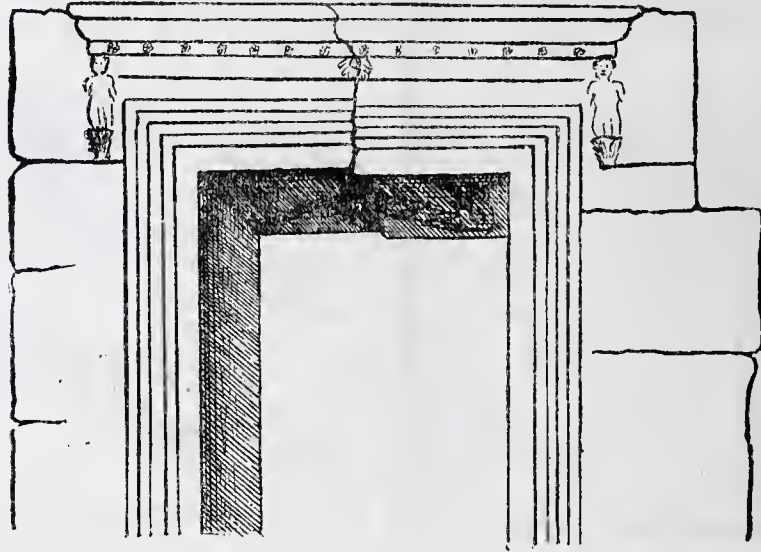


CEILING OF WESTERN GATE (NO. 5).

it is on the portal of the Temple at Palmyra. This may serve to show that the same idea was in the minds of the architects in these three places.

The *Western Gate* differs from the Eastern in the cornice of its lintel. There we have a die, a flower, a die and a face—i. e., in

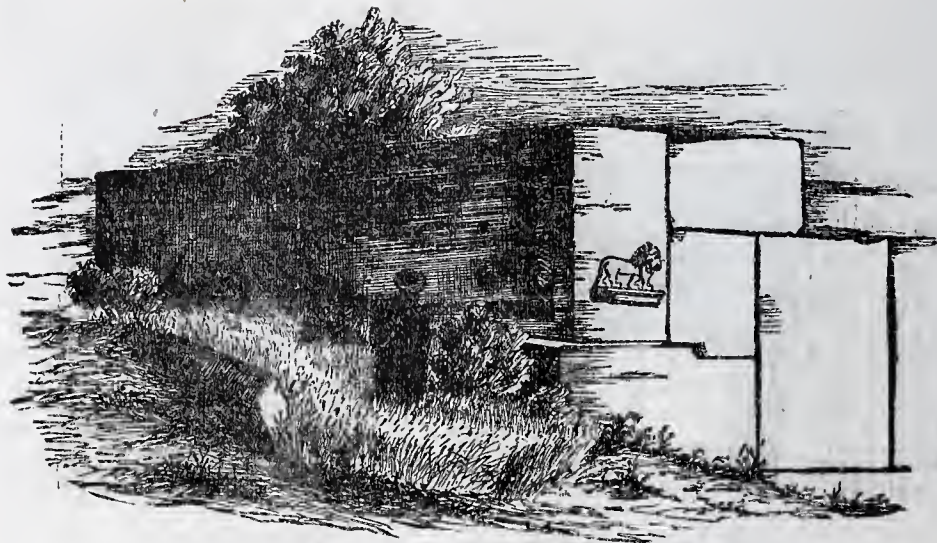
the place of every other leaf there is a face—and the faces are all different, old and young, pretty and ugly, Grecian and Egyptian. (See Nos. 5 and 6.) The lintel of the Eastern Gate alone remains perfect. That of the Northern is broken twice, the Western



INSIDE OF WESTERN GATE (NO. 6).

once, and all remain in place, except the Southern, which has fallen. The last-named has a Greek inscription on it, like that on the Eastern Gate.

In passing around to the Northern Gate, we notice that a portion of the northern wall has been thrown down, and also a portion

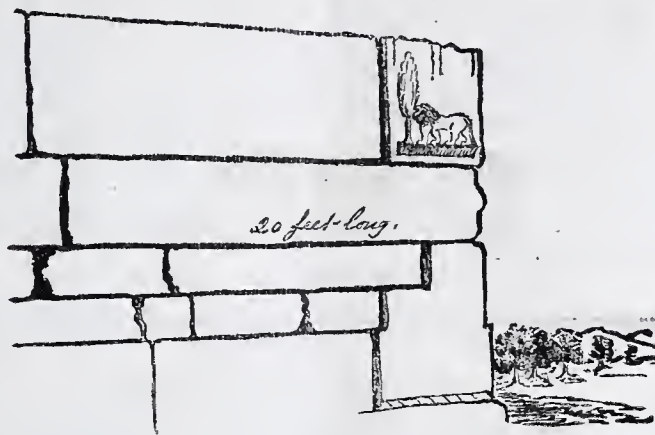


NORTHEAST CORNER (NO. 7).

half way between the East Gate and the northeast corner; the same is true of the west wall directly opposite to it, and of the southwest corner.

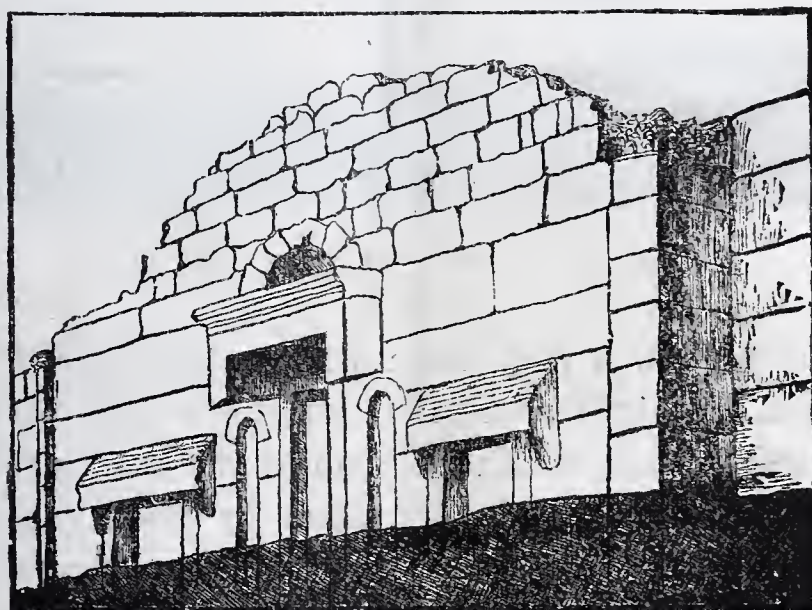
At the northeast corner, we must stop and measure the great

stone that lies there on the top of the wall. It is thirty feet long, nine feet nine inches high and four feet seven inches wide, and at an elevation of thirty feet from the ground on the inside. The outside is much filled up with debris. (See No. 7.) The majority of stones in this great rectangle are of nearly the same immense



NORTHWEST CORNER OF GREAT TEMPLE (NO. 8).

size. Some are thicker and narrower, others are shorter and wider. Those on the south side have a wide, coarse bevel, varying in different stones. The quarry is on the side of the hill, a few rods from the northeast corner. It is of moderately hard, yellowish-gray limestone. The thickness of the stones was governed by

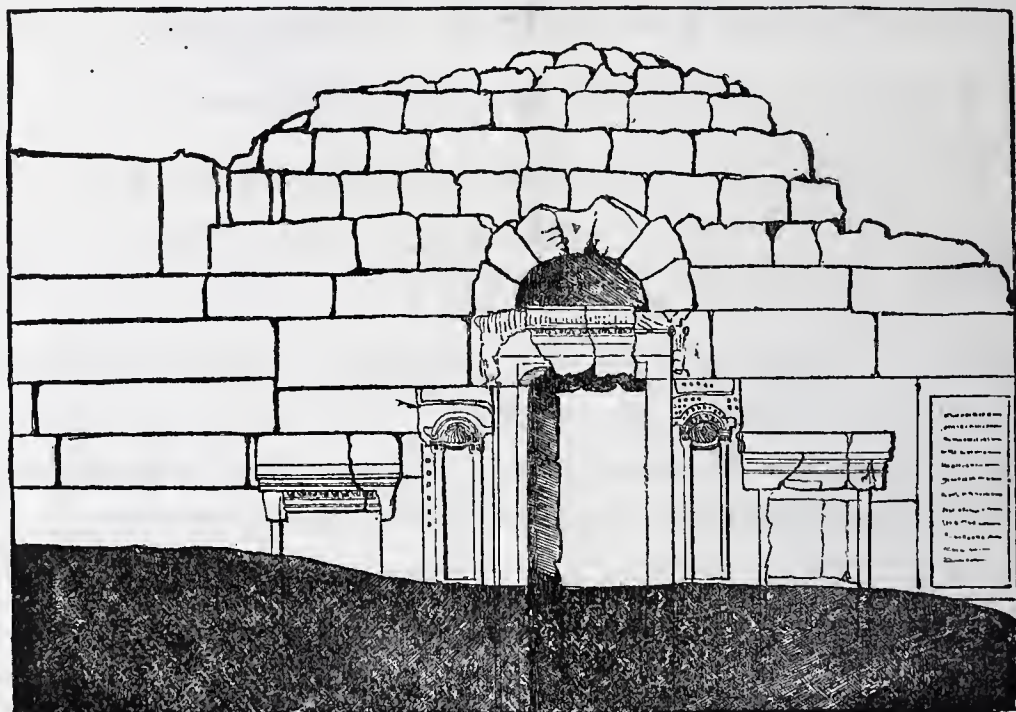


NORTH GATE (NO. 9).

that of the strata. The northeast corner-stone has a rude lion, carved in high relief on its northern end. The stone corresponding to it, on the northwest corner, has a lion standing by a cypress tree, in high relief. (See No. 8.) We wonder here, as at Baalbec, how and why these great stones were placed so high up above their

foundations; and we are not surprised that the natives declare it impossible that men ever built these cyclopean walls.

Passing on to the *Northern Gate*, a new feature strikes the eye. (See No. 9.) Here is the same doorway and lintel, but, on each side, between the door-post and false window, is a deep niche, with the scallop-top, like those in the Great Temple Court at Baalbec. They are large enough for a man to stand in erect. Where are the statues that one graced them? May they not be covered under the deep debris by which the whole ruin is surrounded? All around the niches are the little square holes, indicating that they were once covered with bronze plates. The lintel itself being bro-



INSIDE OF NORTHERN GATE (NO. 10).

ken into four pieces, a rude arch was sprung over it, and then smaller stones, six, eight or ten feet long, are built upon it for the support of a gable roof, reminding one of the buildings of El Bara and Apamea. This was, evidently, done by others than those who laid the great stones of the enceinte. On a large stone at the right of this doorway, we find an inscription, in Latin and Greek, on a tablet six feet by three feet. There are fourteen lines of Latin, in letters two inches high.

Rev. D. Stuart Dodge worked for several hours, copying what could be made out from the much defaced tablet. The whole is much weather worn, and I think a "squeeze" would be of very little value.

MPCAESAR
VBLIVSLICIN
NIVSVALERIANVS
PIVSFELIXAVCETIMP
CAESARPVBLIVSLCINIVS
CALLIENVSPIVSFELIXVCETLICIN
NIVSCORNELIVSSOLONINVS—
VALERIANVSNOBILISSIMNSCAESAR
AVRELIOMAREAETALIIS

RECV MANTI QVABENEFICIA CONSVETV
DINETETIAMINSECVIITENPORISADPRO
BATAISOVIPROVINCIAMRECITREMOTA
VIOLENTIAPARIISADVERSAEINICOLVMIA
VOBIS MANERE CVRABIT

TABLET, 6X3 FEET, HUSN SULAYMAN, ON NORTH FACE, UPPER PART, 14 LINES, TWO INCH LETTERS (NO. 15).

In front of the door is a pedestal, over which was a stone canopy, now thrown down and broken, and the statue gone. The debris around this northern gate is more than ten feet deep, and I have no doubt that explorations and excavations here would well repay those who have the means of making them. Who knows how much of lost history lies buried under this mass of cornices, columns and nameless fragments?

This grand portal has become much choked up with rubbish. But, passing through it to the inside, we will notice, first, that the ground slopes quite rapidly toward the west. Oak trees partly conceal the picturesque Ionic temple in the southern half of the area, and the ivy is climbing gracefully and luxuriantly over its fallen blocks and up its standing walls.

A portico was once built inside this northern portal forty-five feet wide and seventeen feet deep. Its roof and columns are fallen and mostly covered up. The capitals of the pilasters on the main wall are early Corinthian. (See No. 10.) The niches inside are like those outside the gate, and are six by two feet.

The little Ionic temple is approached by two flights of steps as

wide as the temple itself, each set of steps occupying about thirty feet in depth. The temple itself is seventy-five feet long and forty-five feet wide. (See No. 11.) Including the two flights of steps, it would be one hundred and thirty-five feet long. It is built of the gray limestone like all the rest of the ruin, but the blocks are much smaller, varying from six to ten feet long, and from three to four feet in width and thickness. It is surrounded by half columns built into the walls, projecting like pilasters. At the corners they are three-quarter columns. There are four at the south end and five on each side. These half columns are three feet five inches in diameter, and about twenty-seven feet high. The inside of the temple, like the approach to it, is much choked

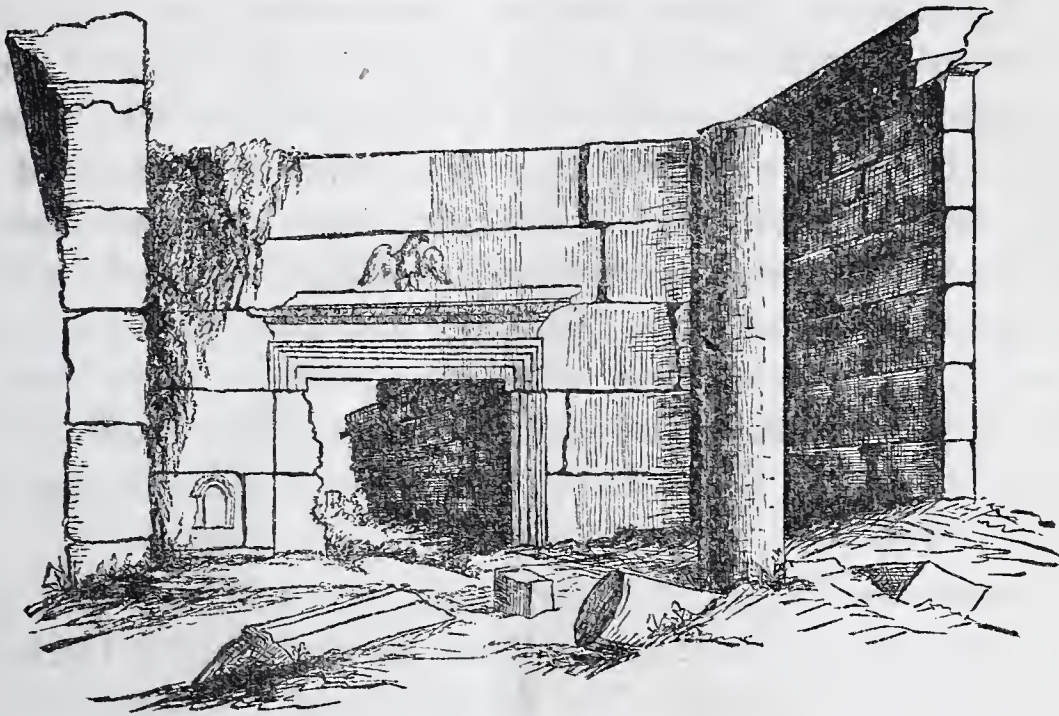


SOUTHEAST VIEW OF INTERIOR TEMPLE (NO. 11).

up by the blocks fallen from its walls. In the winter, a fine fountain gushes out from under it. Now, however, it is so filled up that, in the spring and summer, the water flows out from under the western wall of the outer enclosure. Doubtless this fountain of marvelously sweet water—the most delicious I ever tasted—had something to do with the singular choice of this location.

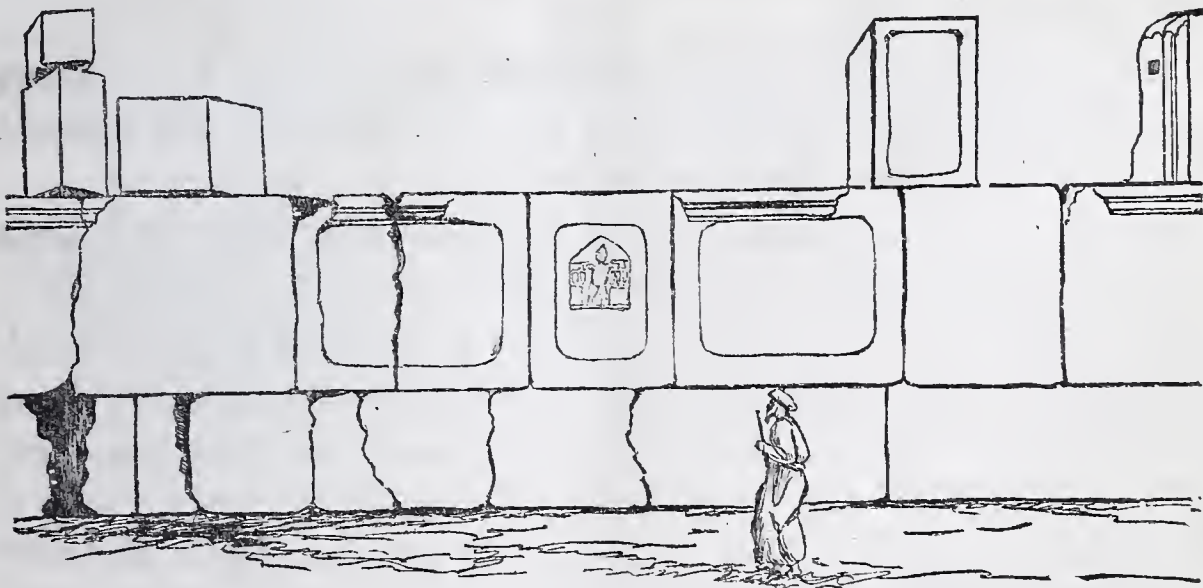
Having seen the principal ruin, we will now turn our attention to the other enclosure, that lies a few rods to the north. It is irregular in its contour, as appears from the “ground plan” (see No. 2). At the southeast corner stands a little temple, with its portico thirteen by twenty-six feet, and twenty feet high, and its vestibule

twenty-six by forty feet. (See No. 12.) The door between them is seven feet wide by ten feet high. The lintel is thirteen feet long, and its cornice is similar to that of the other portals, except that



SOUTHERN GATE OF THE NORTHERN SMALLER TEMPLE (NO. 12).

there is a row of egg cornice under the dice and flower cornice, and an eagle in the centre over the whole. The stone above the lintel is fifteen feet long. The whole building is laid up without mortar, and the stones are beautifully fitted together. The two inclosures



OUTH SIDE OF THE SOUTHERN TEMPLE AREA (NO. 13).

seem to have no reference to each other, though the south wall of the northern ruin is built in the same style with the other, resembling it in its massive stones, its doorway, its cornices and its

coarse bevel. There is a very rude *bas relief* (see No. 13) on one of the stones in this south wall, of a man with a rod on his shoulder, from which are suspended, on either side, jars, or fishes, or something of that kind. Inside this inclosure are traces of smaller temples, but so indistinct that it is not easy to see their relation to one another. At the eastern side, there is evidence of a Crusaders' church. Its walls are built in mortar—the only trace of such building in the whole ruin. A platform, forty by twenty feet, projects from the southwest corner, behind which we found the pedestals of many columns. This platform may have been the portico of a temple inclosed by these columns. At the middle of the west side we found a building those walls are partly standing—forty-five by fifteen feet. It is outside the inclosure, though one wall is common to both.

Fifty-seven feet from the northwest corner, there is a semi-circular wall, twenty feet high; the semi-circle being thirty feet wide and twenty feet deep. The northern wall there disappears in the rubbish. At the northeast corner it is built of large stones and runs south *half way* to the little temple on the southeast corner, where it is broken by the Crusader (?) church walls, built with lime.

In the centre of the inclosure are a few tombs such as may be found anywhere in the country, but there was nothing about them to indicate their date.

The most attractive view of this ruin, and of the surrounding country, is obtained by climbing up the north side of the basin to the top of the ridge. (See frontispiece.)

We find the two ruins very interesting from this point, and, after lingering a little while to satisfy our eyes by looking at the picturesque view below us, we look up and are astonished at the magnificent scene. We will need to look long before we can comprehend the whole view. Just behind us is a deep ravine running up among the ragged cliffs of the Nusaireeyeh Mountains. In the centre of this ravine is a singular isolated rock, very small at the top and with perpendicular sides, several hundred feet high, crowned by a little Crusaders' castle, called Kolaat el Koleiaat (Chateau de la Colee). To the right, the rolling hills gradually lose themselves in the distant glimmer of the sea. In front of us we see Burj (tower of, Safita, the extensive plain of Akkar, the great circular bay and

the sea line stretching down to the city of Tripoli; and still the line of vision runs on down to the "Cape of the Divine Countenance." From this point, Lebanon gradually rises and stretches off to the north, where a great amphitheatre sweeps around the famous old cedars; and then the goodly mountain attains its highest elevation and its most majestic grandeur. Following the snow line along to the northeast, it suddenly breaks down to the Mountains of Akkar. Still farther to the north, we catch a glimpse of the northern summits of Anti Lebanon, standing between Coelo Syria and the great plains that extend out to Palmyra and Bagdad. Climb a little higher up the ridge, and you will seem to be between two boundless seas. The same indescribable line and the same mellow blue haze lies over the vast interior plains that you find toward the setting sun over the beautiful Mediterranean. Let us fancy ourselves between these great seas of land and water, and, forgetting the present, think on the past, when the worshipers of old heathen deities came over these very mountains, and down the very path we have ascended, and selected this site for their devotions—and wonder when they first came, whither they have gone, and why they chose that secluded basin, leaving this inspiring mountain.

What is the story of grand old Husn Sulayman? Diligent researches may yet enable us to answer the question.

July, 1872.

NOTE 1.—Rev. H. H. Jessup, D.D., of Beirut, made the thirteen sketches and drawings accompanying this article, and Rev. D. Stuart Dodge copied the long Latin and Greek inscriptions. They accompanied me on my last visit to Husn Sulayman in June, 1872.

NOTE 2.—Since writing the foregoing article, I have learned from a little pamphlet report of E. G. Ray of Paris, "*Reconnaissance de la montagne des Ansaries*" to the "*Societe de Geographie*" in Paris, that he passed by this ruin and was much attracted by it. But so far as I have been able to learn, he has not published anything on the subject—his mission at that time being to explore the ruins of the Crusaders and their military architecture. He merely mentions the place in his itinerary in which he says he regards it as the best specimen of *Τεμενος* that exists in Syria, and that the long inscription on the northern wall mentions the restoration of its sanctuaries during the reign of Valerian.

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